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SEP 21 2007

REMARKS

The objection under Section 112 has been corrected.

The sole remaining issue with respect to the rejection of the claims based on prior art, is whether the cited reference teaches applying fields of opposite polarities to separate constituents in opposite directions. It is respectfully submitted that the deductions contained in the office action, based on the use of the word "charges," are insufficient to meet the claimed limitations. That is because merely using different charges does not mean using different polarities. It can involve using different charge extents or amounts of charge.

Reviewing the embodiment of Figure 6 of the present application, it can be seen that the entry point is at 30 in the middle of the structure. Positive charges go up, as indicated by the ovals around positive charges, and negative charges go down from the central entry point 30. Thus, you can see that in order to move the charges in opposite directions, you need some type of central repository into which the constituents are placed.

In contrast, with the cited reference to Soane, the entry port is clearly 36 and the exit port is 38. See, for example, column 9, lines 22 and 23. Suppose one skilled in the art were to put positive and negative charges' constituents into the entry point 36. It is respectfully submitted that, under principles of physics, there is no possible way to separate the positive and negative charges in opposite directions. The only available direction in the embodiment of Figure 2 of the cited reference is to move all the charges from 36 to 28. For example, if a positive charge was put on the electrode proximate to 28, all the negatively charged particles would move toward 28, but the positively charged particles have no place to go.

The bottom line is that, not only did Soane never think of the possibility of simultaneously separating positive and negative charges, but he provided no structure which is capable of doing the same.

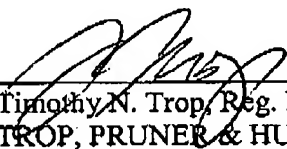
Thus, the material cited at column 9, line 3, through column 10, line 11, talking about moving based on size, charge, or shape simply means moving based on the amount of charge, not on the polarity of those charges.

Similarly, the material at column 7, lines 18-30, is, again, referring to extent of charge, not charge type. There is no place to move particles of opposite charges in the structure shown in the cited reference.

In view of these remarks, reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: September 21, 2007



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